

3 a stud extending outwardly from said first structure along an axis, said  
4 stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis; and

5 a resilient member positioned adjacent a surface of said second  
6 structure, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal  
7 configuration, an outer surface contacting said surface of said second  
8 structure to prevent movement of said outer surface of said resilient member  
9 radially outward, and an inner surface moveable radially outward;

10 said torroidal configuration of said resilient member defining an  
11 opening smaller than said stud, and said [opening of said] resilient member  
12 being configured to expand radially outwardly at said opening when axial  
13 force is applied to said stud to permit passage of said stud, said resilient  
14 member being configured to releasably engage said surface of said stud  
15 when said resilient member is relaxed, thereby providing releasable  
16 engagement between said structures;

17 wherein one of said structures comprises a door.

1 14. (Twice Amended) A system for providing releasable engagement  
2 between two structures and for maintaining a predetermined gap between said  
3 structures, said system comprising:

4 a substantially cylindrical stud mounted on one of said structures and  
5 extending outwardly therefrom along an axis, said stud having a groove  
6 extending about a periphery of said stud at an angle to said axis of said stud;  
7 and

8 a torroidal radial spring positioned adjacent a surface of the other one  
9 of said structures, said radial spring having an outer surface contacting said  
10 surface of said other one of said structures to prevent movement of said outer  
11 surface radially outwardly with respect to said axis of said stud, said radial  
12 spring also having an inner surface movable radially outwardly with respect  
13 to said axis of said stud;

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14 said inner surface of said radial spring defining an inner diameter  
15 smaller than the maximum diameter of said stud when said radial spring is  
16 relaxed, and said inner surface being configured to expand radially outwardly  
17 to permit passage of said stud when said radial spring is expanded, said radial  
18 spring being configured to releasably engage said groove of said stud when  
19 said radial spring is relaxed, thereby providing releasable engagement  
20 between said structures, and thereby maintaining said predetermined gap  
21 between said structures.

B4 4/21 15. (Once Amended) The system as recited in claim 14, one of said  
structures comprising a frame and the other of said structures comprising a  
door, said stud being mounted on said frame and said radial spring being  
[positioned] mounted on said door adjacent a surface of said door.

Sub 2/1 19. (Twice Amended) A system for providing releasable engagement  
between two structures and for maintaining a predetermined gap between said  
structures, said system comprising:

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4 a plurality of substantially cylindrical studs mounted on one of said  
5 structures and extending outwardly therefrom, each of said studs extending  
6 along an axis and having a groove oriented at an angle to said axis and  
7 located to maintain said predetermined gap between said structures; and

8 a plurality of torroidal radial springs mounted adjacent surfaces of the  
9 other one of said structures, each of said radial springs being mounted at a  
10 location corresponding to an axis of one of said studs when said structures  
11 are adjacent one another, and each of said radial springs having an outer  
12 surface contacting a surface of said other one of said structures to prevent  
13 movement of said outer surface of said radial spring radially outwardly, and  
14 each of said radial springs also having an inner surface movable radially  
15 outwardly;

16 said inner surface of each of said radial springs defining an inner  
17 diameter smaller than the maximum diameter of said studs when said radial  
18 springs are relaxed, and said inner surface of each of said radial springs

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19 being configured to expand radially outwardly to permit passage of one of  
20 said studs when said radial springs are expanded, each of said radial springs  
21 being configured to releasably engage said groove of one of said studs [for  
22 releasable engagement of said stud], thereby providing releasable engagement  
23 between said structures, and thereby maintaining said predetermined gap  
24 between said structures.

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22. (Once Amended) A latching assembly for providing releasable  
engagement between two structures, said latching assembly comprising:

3 a stud extending outwardly from one of said structures along an axis,  
4 said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis; and

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5 a resilient member positioned adjacent a surface of the other one of  
6 said structures, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal  
7 configuration, an outer surface contacting said surface of said other one of  
8 said structures to prevent movement of said outer surface of said resilient  
9 member radially outward, and an inner surface defining an opening and  
10 moveable radially outward;

11 said resilient member having a position wherein said opening is  
12 smaller than said stud to releasably engage said outer surface of said stud,  
13 and said resilient member having an expanded position wherein said opening  
14 is sized to permit passage of said stud.

1 23. (Once Amended) An enclosure latching system for providing  
2 releasable engagement between a door and an enclosure, said latching system  
3 comprising:

4 a stud extending outwardly from one of said door and said enclosure  
5 along an axis, said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said  
6 axis; and

7 a resilient member positioned adjacent a surface of the other one of  
8 said door and said enclosure, said resilient member having:

9 a substantially torroidal configuration,  
10 an outer surface contacting said surface of said other one of said  
11 door and said enclosure to prevent movement of said outer  
12 surface of said resilient member radially outward, and  
13 an inner surface moveable radially outward;  
14 said torroidal configuration of said resilient member defining an  
15 opening smaller than said stud, and being expandable radially outward to  
16 permit passage of said stud, said resilient member being configured to  
17 releasably engage said surface of said stud, thereby providing releasable  
18 engagement between said door and said enclosure.

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Please add claims 24 and 25 as follows:

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- 1 24. A latching system for releasably engaging a door to a frame  
2 comprising:  
3 a stud mounted on one of said door and said frame and having an axis  
4 and a surface, at least a portion of said surface being angled with respect to  
5 said axis of said stud; and  
6 a coiled spring mounted on the other one of said door and said frame  
7 and having an axis arranged in a circle to form a torroidal configuration, said  
8 torroidal configuration of said spring defining an opening which is  
9 expandable by introduction of said stud therein to allow the stud to pass  
10 through said opening and which relaxes to releasably engage said angled  
11 surface of said stud.
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- 1 25. A door assembly comprising:  
2 a frame;  
3 a door mounted for movement with respect to said frame;

4 a stud extending from one of said frame and said door along an axis,  
5 said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis;

6 a resilient member retained adjacent a surface of the other one of said  
7 frame and said door, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal  
8 configuration defining an outer surface and an opening;

9 said opening of said resilient member being smaller than said stud and  
10 configured to expand radially outwardly to permit passage of said stud;

11 said outer surface of said resilient member being in contact with said  
12 surface of said other one of said frame and said door, said surface being  
13 positioned to constrain said outer surface of said resilient member and  
14 prevent movement of said outer surface of said resilient member radially  
15 outwardly;

16 wherein when said door is closed with respect to said frame, said  
17 resilient member releasably engages said outer surface of said stud, thereby  
18 providing releasable engagement between said door and said frame.

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